

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-34. (Cancelled).

35. (New) An exhaust assembly for use with a breathing gas delivery system including a delivery conduit and a patient interface, the exhaust assembly comprising:

- a first member associated with a patient interface;
- a second member adapted to be coupled to a delivery conduit, and wherein the first member and the member portion couple together such that a chamber is defined between the first member and the second member ;
- a first opening at least partially defined by the first member communicating the chamber with ambient atmosphere; and
- a second opening defined in a side wall of the second member communicating an interior of the exhaust assembly with the chamber, wherein an exhaust flow path is defined from the interior of the exhaust assembly to ambient atmosphere via the first opening and the second opening, and wherein the exhaust flow path is continuously open.

36. (New) The exhaust assembly of claim 35, wherein the first opening is a gap between the first member and the second member.

37. (New) The exhaust assembly of claim 35, wherein the second opening is further defined by a slot provided in the second member.

38. (New) The exhaust assembly of claim 35, wherein the second opening is defined by a hole provided in the second member.

39. (New) The exhaust assembly of claim 35, wherein the second opening is at least one of a plurality of radial holes defined around a perimeter of the second member.

40. (New) A connector for use with a breathing gas delivery system including a delivery conduit and a patient interface, the connector comprising:

a first member associated with a patient interface; and

a second member adapted to be coupled to a delivery conduit, wherein the first member and the second member couple together to define an exhaust flow path from an interior of the first member or the second member to ambient atmosphere, and wherein the exhaust flow path is continuously open.

41. (New) A connector according to claim 40, wherein the first member and the second member are selectively detachable from one another.

42. (New) A connector according to claim 40, wherein first member and the second member are rotatable relative to one another about a common axis.

43. (New) A connector according to claim 40, wherein the exhaust flow path communicates with an interior of the connector via an opening defined in side wall of the second member, and wherein the exhaust flow path communicates with ambient atmosphere via a gap between the first member and the second member.

44. (New) A connector according to claim 40, wherein the exhaust flow path communicates with an interior of the connector via a plurality of openings defined in a side wall of the second member, and wherein the exhaust flow path communicates with ambient atmosphere via a gap provided between the first member and the second member.